

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action dated July 17, 2003 in which the Examiner rejects all the pending claims 1 – 15 as either being anticipated by, or obvious over, Hierold et al. (DE 19738990A1; of record) under 35USC §102(b) or §103(a). The Examiner further objects the Specification for not including proper subtitles, and objects to claims 1-15 for defective claim language. The applicant has amended claim 1, to distinguishably define the present invention over the cited Hierold as well as to perfect the claim language. The applicant has also added proper subtitles in the Specification to overcome the objection to the Specification. The applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of the Examiner under 35USC §102(b) and §103(a) based on the amended claims and the following explanation.

In particular, the applicant has added to claims 1 and 12 the distinguishing feature that “the signal-generating unit (40) and the evaluation unit (70) are integral parts of the semiconductor chip”, which is not disclosed in Hierold (DE 19738990A1). Hierold does not teach that the signal-generating unit and the evaluation unit, which combine to correspond to the “capacitate sensor” in Hierold, are integral parts of the semiconductor chip. As explained in the background portion of the Specification of the present application, with the teaching of the present invention, the “capacitate sensor” is completely integrated with the semiconductor chip, thus there is no exterior electric connection needed. Moreover, no elaborate assembly operations in the manufacturing of the chip are needed. (see page 2, lines 22 – 26). To the contrary, the envisaged “capacitate sensor” in the arrangement disclosed in Hierold is not obtained until after the chip to be protected has been mounted on a card by providing an appropriate protective lacquer and is capable of functioning in this way only (see page 2, lines 15-17). Therefore, with

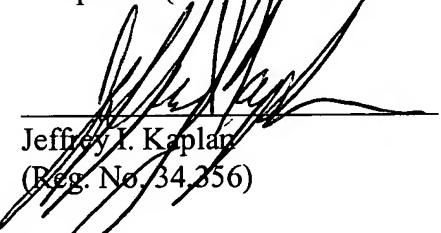
the above emphasized distinguishing feature, amended claims 1 and 12 are now believed patentable over Hierold.

At least for the same reasons, all other claims 2-11 and 13 – 21 are also believed patentable since each of them includes all the features in either amended claim 1 or claim 12.

The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and allowance of them in view of the above. The Examiner is authorized to deduct any fees believed due from our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on October 17, 2003.

Dated October 17, 2003 Signed *Paula M. Halsey* Print Name Paula M. Halsey